

# STATEWIDE BLACK BASS REGISTERED TOURNAMENT MONITORING

2006 to 2008

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Black bass tournament data was collected from ten Indiana lakes/reservoirs in 17 counties from 2006 to 2008. Lakes ranged in acreage from 669 acres (Sylvan Lake) to 10,750 acres (Monroe Reservoir). Other lakes with registered tournaments were Brookville Reservoir, Cagle's Mill Reservoir, Cecil M. Harden Reservoir (Raccoon Lake), Hardy Lake, Mississinewa Reservoir, Patoka Lake, Salamonie Reservoir, Syracuse Lake, and Lake Wawasee.
- A total of 449 black bass tournaments was reported from 2006 to 2008 with 29,547 bass weighed-in. A total of 33,632 anglers participated with an average of 75 anglers/tournament. The month with the most tournaments varied from year to year, with April being the month with the most tournaments in 2006, June in 2007, and May in 2008.
- Regression analyses were run to determine if factors were related. Lake acreage was found to have a positive relationship with the average number of anglers per lake by year. Lake acreage also had a positive relationship with average big bass weight.
- A best subsets regression was run to see what factors attribute to the average big bass weight. Lake acreage and the number of hours to catch a legal bass exhibited a linear relationship with average big bass weight.
- An ANOVA was run to compare lakes with 14.0 in MSL to lakes with 15.0 in and 16.0 in MSLs. Average bass weight was significantly higher at Patoka Lake (15.0 in MSL) and Cecil M. Harden Reservoir (16.0 in MSL) versus all other lakes.
- The data collected annually from registered tournaments allow fisheries biologists to see a snapshot of the harvestable bass population present within a lake. This data, in tandem with creel and survey data, can help to draw important conclusions on how to manage a fishery. It is especially vital in drawing conclusions on the numbers of legal size bass available in a lake or reservoir which may not be accurately shown by other sampling methods.

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## INTRODUCTION

Indiana fishing tournaments have been regulated in the state since 1970 on reservoirs owned or operated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR initially prohibited tournaments during all summer months on all state owned reservoirs except Monroe Reservoir. However, this prohibition was perceived as pushing tournaments to natural lakes or other reservoirs during the closed season. Several actions were taken in the 1990s to come up with a permanent solution to this issue. In the fall of 2000, a rule was implemented that opened other large state owned reservoirs to summer tournaments.

In 2000, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law (HEA 1075) which allowed the DNR to regulate additional watercraft activities involving more than 15 boats on public waters, including fishing tournaments. However, the law did not dictate how group activities and tournaments would be regulated. In October 2002, the Indiana Natural Resources Commission adopted a rule (312 IAC 2-4-1) that outlined a process for regulating fishing tournaments on designated public waters. The contents of that rule are as follows. A fishing tournament was defined as an activity involving fifteen or more watercraft used for taking fish where: (1.) persons compete for a trophy, citation, cash or prize or (2.) a fee is charged to participants. The DNR conducts an organizational meeting between October 1 and November 15 to establish dates for the following year on which fishing tournaments can be conducted. Each organization that receives a reserved date must then submit a completed license application within 30 days of notification or at least 60 days before the scheduled event, whichever is earlier. A license holder must report the results of the tournament to the DNR within 30 days after the tournament is complete (Appendix 1). For more information refer to Appendix 2.

The intent of this report is to summarize the first three years of tournament data available and not to pick what lakes have better fishing than others. Bass fishing at each lake can vary from year to year due to weather conditions during a tournament and particular year class strengths. Future reports will only discuss the most recent year's tournaments, while listing prior year tournament data in an appendix. The report will include the required data for each lakes respective biologist to perform further analysis if they so desire.

## METHODS

Black bass tournament data was collected from ten Indiana water bodies in 17 counties from 2006 to 2008 (Figure 1). Lakes ranged in acreage from 669 acres (Sylvan Lake) to 10,750 acres (Monroe Reservoir). Other lakes with registered tournaments were Brookville Reservoir, Cagle's Mill Reservoir, Cecil M. Harden Reservoir (Raccoon Lake), Hardy Lake, Mississinewa Reservoir, Patoka Lake, Salamonie Reservoir, Syracuse Lake, and Lake Wawasee (Table 1). Syracuse and Wawasee were combined when reported due to their connection via a lake channel and grouped as Lake Wawasee. Data was summarized by lake and then by year. Overall data was also compiled.

A simple linear regression analysis was used to determine if single variables were related. A best subsets regression was used to compare all possible combinations of predictor variables that may determine average big bass weight. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to compare tournament data on lakes with a 14.0 in minimum size limit (MSL) to lakes with a 15.0 or 16.0 in MSL.

## RESULTS

### 2006

April had the highest number of reported tournaments among water bodies in 2006 (36) and March had the lowest (2) (Figure 2). Patoka Lake had the highest number of tournaments (39), followed by Monroe Reservoir (31), and Sylvan Lake and Lake Wawasee (30) (Figure 3). Mississinewa Reservoir had the lowest number of reported tournaments (1). The average number of anglers per tournament was highest at Monroe Reservoir (128), followed by Patoka lake (98), and Salamonie Reservoir (89) (Figure 4). The lake with the lowest average number of anglers was Cecil M. Harden Reservoir with 34. The average weight of the big bass caught was highest at Monroe Reservoir at 6.0 lbs, followed by Patoka Lake at 5.2 lbs, and Salamonie Reservoir at 5.1 lbs (Figure 5). The lake with the lowest average big bass weight was Hardy Lake at 2.8 lbs. The maximum big bass weight was highest at Monroe Reservoir (8.1 lbs), followed by Sylvan Lake (7.4 lbs), and Patoka Lake (7.3 lbs) (Figure 6). The lake with the lowest maximum big bass weight was Hardy Lake (3.8 lbs). The average weight of all bass caught was highest at Patoka Lake (2.8 lbs), followed by Cecil M. Harden Reservoir (2.7 lbs), and Monroe Reservoir (2.6 lbs) (Figure 7). The lake with the lowest average weight was Hardy

Lake (1.5 lbs). The catch per unit effort (CPUE) for legal bass was highest at Hardy Lake (0.42), followed by Lake Wawasee (0.21), and Brookville Reservoir (0.19) (Figure 8). The lake with the lowest CPUE for legal bass was Salamonie Reservoir (0.04). The number of hours needed to catch a legal bass was lowest at Hardy Lake (2.4 h), followed by Lake Wawasee (4.8 h), and Brookville Reservoir (5.4 h) (Figure 9). The lake with the highest number of hours to catch a legal bass was Salamonie Reservoir (23.0 h). Monroe Reservoir had the highest number of tournaments that provided bass length data (34), followed by Patoka Lake (21), and Hardy Lake (7) (Figure 10). Lake Wawasee had no tournaments that measured bass in 2006. The number of hours to catch a bass 18.0 in or longer was lowest at Patoka Lake (35 h), followed by Cecil M. Harden Reservoir (55 h), and Monroe Reservoir (62 h) (Figure 11). Hardy Lake had the highest number of hours to catch a bass 18.0 in or longer with 1,164 h. For data on all lakes in 2006 refer to Appendix 3.

## 2007

June had the highest number of reported tournaments in 2007 and October had the lowest number with 4. Monroe Reservoir had the highest number of tournaments reported (30), followed by Patoka Lake and Lake Wawasee both with 25 tournaments. Cagle's Mill Reservoir had no reporting tournaments. The average number of anglers per tournament was highest at Patoka Lake (150), followed by Monroe Reservoir with 90, and Brookville Reservoir with 58. Cecil M. Harden Reservoir had the lowest average number of anglers/tournament with 34. The average weight of the big bass caught was highest at Patoka Lake (5.8 lbs), followed by Salamonie Reservoir (5.1 lbs), and Monroe Reservoir (5.0 lbs). Hardy Lake had the lowest average weight of big bass caught (3.4 lbs). The maximum big bass weight was highest at Patoka Lake at 7.3 lbs, followed by Monroe Reservoir at 7.1 lbs, and Brookville Reservoir at 6.2 lbs. Mississinewa Reservoir had the lowest maximum big bass weight at 4.5 lbs. The average weight of all bass caught was highest at Patoka (2.8 lbs), followed by Cecil M. Harden Reservoir (2.6 lbs), and Monroe Reservoir (2.3 lbs). Hardy Lake had the lowest average bass weight at 1.6 lbs. The CPUE for legal bass was highest at Hardy Lake (0.43), followed by Lake Wawasee (0.17), and Sylvan Lake (0.14). Cecil M. Harden Reservoir had the lowest CPUE at 0.09. The number of hours to catch a legal bass was lowest at Hardy Lake (2.3 h), followed by Lake Wawasee (5.9 h), and Sylvan Lake (7.2 h). Cecil M. Harden Reservoir had the highest number

of hours to catch at legal bass at 10.6 h. Monroe Reservoir had the highest number of tournaments that measured bass length (21), followed by Brookville Reservoir (10), and Patoka Lake (8). Cagle's Mill Reservoir, Cecil M. Harden Reservoir, Salamonie Reservoir, Sylvan Lake, and Lake Wawasee had no tournaments that measured bass in 2007. The number of hours to catch a bass 18.0 in or longer was lowest at Patoka Lake (49 h), followed by Brookville Reservoir (156 h), and Monroe (256 h). Hardy Lake had the highest number of hours to catch a bass 18.0 in or longer with 606 h. For data on all lakes in 2007 refer to Appendix 3.

## 2008

May had the highest number of reporting tournaments in 2008 and March had the lowest number at 7. Monroe Reservoir had the highest number of tournaments reported in 2008 (33), followed by Patoka Lake (28), and Lake Wawasee (27). Cagle's Mill Reservoir and Salamonie Reservoir had the lowest number of tournaments reported at 1. The average number of anglers per tournament was highest at Patoka Lake (125), followed by Monroe Reservoir (90), and Brookville Reservoir (63). Hardy Lake had the lowest average number of anglers per tournament at 39. The average weight of the big bass caught was highest at Patoka Lake and Monroe Reservoir (5.7 lbs), followed by Cecil M. Harden (5.2 lbs). Hardy Lake and Sylvan Lake had the lowest average weight of the big bass at 3.5 lbs. The maximum big bass weight was highest at Monroe Reservoir (9.0 lbs), followed by Patoka Lake ( 7.2 lbs), and Cecil M. Harden Reservoir (6.1 lbs). Cagle's Mill had the lowest maximum big bass weight at 4.6 lbs. The average weight of all bass caught was highest at Patoka (3.0 lbs), followed by Cecil M. Harden Reservoir (2.9 lbs), and Monroe Reservoir (2.5 lbs). Hardy Lake had the lowest average bass weight at 1.6 lbs. The CPUE for legal bass was highest at Hardy Lake (0.24), followed by Lake Wawasee (0.22), and Sylvan Lake (0.16). Cagle's Mill had the lowest CPUE at 0.02. The number of hours to catch a legal bass was lowest at Hardy Lake (4.1 h), followed by Lake Wawasee (4.6 h), and Sylvan Lake (6.1 h). Cagle's Mill had the highest number of hours to catch a legal bass at 55.2 h. Monroe had the highest number of tournaments that measured bass length (14), followed by Brookville at 12, and Patoka at 10. Salamonie had no tournaments that measured bass in 2008. Patoka had the lowest number of hours to catch a bass 18.0 in or longer (44 h), followed by Cecil M. Harden (60 h), and Wawasee ( 86 h). Hardy had the highest



number of hours to catch an 18.0 in bass at 1,476 h. For data on all lakes in 2008, refer to Appendix 3.

## DISCUSSION

Black basses (*Micropodus* spp.) are the most frequently pursued freshwater sport fishes in the United States (Wilde et al. 1998). Twenty-five million anglers fished in freshwater (excluding the Great Lakes) in the United States in 2006; 40% of these anglers fished for black basses (USFWS 2007). Fishing tournament numbers have been increasing annually (Kerr and Kamake 2003) putting more emphasis on effects these tournaments have on fish populations.

The data collected annually from registered tournaments allows fisheries biologists to see a snapshot of the harvestable bass population present within a lake. This data, in tandem with creel and survey data, can help biologists draw important conclusions on how to manage a fishery. It is especially vital in drawing conclusions on the number of legal size bass available in a lake or reservoir which may not be accurately shown by other sampling methods. The main source of bass data comes from electrofishing samples. According to the 2006 survey of Patoka Lake the biggest largemouth bass collected weighed approximately 5.8 lbs (Carnahan 2007). However, the biggest largemouth bass caught in a tournament at Patoka Lake was 7.3 lbs. Similarly, the 2007 survey of Monroe Reservoir showed the biggest bass collected to weigh 4.5 lbs (Kittaka 2008) and a 7.1 lb bass was caught in a tournament. Similar results are exhibited at other lakes/reservoirs with registered tournaments (Long 2007; Carnahan 2008).

Currently, tournament organizers are not required to measure all fish brought in, but an optional data page for lengths is provided. This additional information is important in determining the size range of bass caught within each lake or reservoir. It can provide a way to evaluate the numbers of trophy-size fish available and help tournament organizers and biologists know what sizes of bass are present within these lakes.

Regression analyses were run to determine if factors were related. Lake acreage was found to have a positive relationship with the average number of anglers per lake by year ( $R^2 = 0.69$ ,  $df = 26$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) (Figure 12). Lake acreage also had a positive relationship with average big bass weight ( $R^2 = 0.60$ ,  $df = 26$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), the number of tournaments per lake ( $R^2 = 0.28$ ,  $df = 26$ ,  $P = 0.003$ ), and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) ( $R^2 = 0.11$ ,  $df = 26$ ,  $P = 0.47$ ). The CPUE had a positive relationship with average big bass weight ( $R^2 = 0.46$ ,  $df = 25$ ,  $P = 0.0001$ ).

The number of hours to catch a legal bass per lake by year had a positive relationship with the average big bass weight ( $R^2 = 0.35$ ,  $df = 25$ ,  $P = 0.0009$ ). The number of tournaments and the average number of anglers also had a positive relationship ( $R^2 = 0.15$ ,  $df = 26$ ,  $P = 0.024$ ).

A best subsets regression was run to see what factors attribute to the average big bass weight. Lake acreage and the number of hours to catch a legal bass exhibited a linear relationship with average big bass weight ( $R^2 = 0.81$ ,  $df = 26$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

An ANOVA was run to compare lakes with 14.0 in MSL to lakes with 15.0 in and 16.0 in MSLs. Average bass weight was significantly higher in Patoka Lake (15.0 in MSL) and Cecil M. Harden Reservoir (16.0 in MSL) versus all other lakes ( $F = 13.24$ ,  $df = 26$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ).

#### LITERATURE CITED

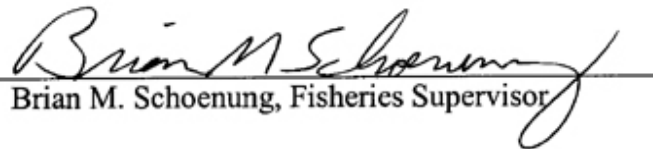
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Date: January 13, 2009

Approved by: Daniel P. Carnahan, Fisheries Biologist

Approved by:

  
Brian M. Schoenung, Fisheries Supervisor

Date: February 18, 2009

Table 1. Key for figures 2 to 10 and lake acreage.

Lake Name	Code	Acreage
Brookville Reservoir	BRK	5,260
Cagle's Mill Reservoir	CAG	1,400
Cecil M. Harden Reservoir	CMH	2,060
Hardy Lake	HAR	741
Mississinewa Reservoir	MIS	3,280
Monroe Reservoir	MON	10,750
Patoka Lake	PAT	8,880
Salamonie Reservoir	SAL	2,665
Sylvan Lake	SYL	669
Lake Wawasee	WAW	3,410

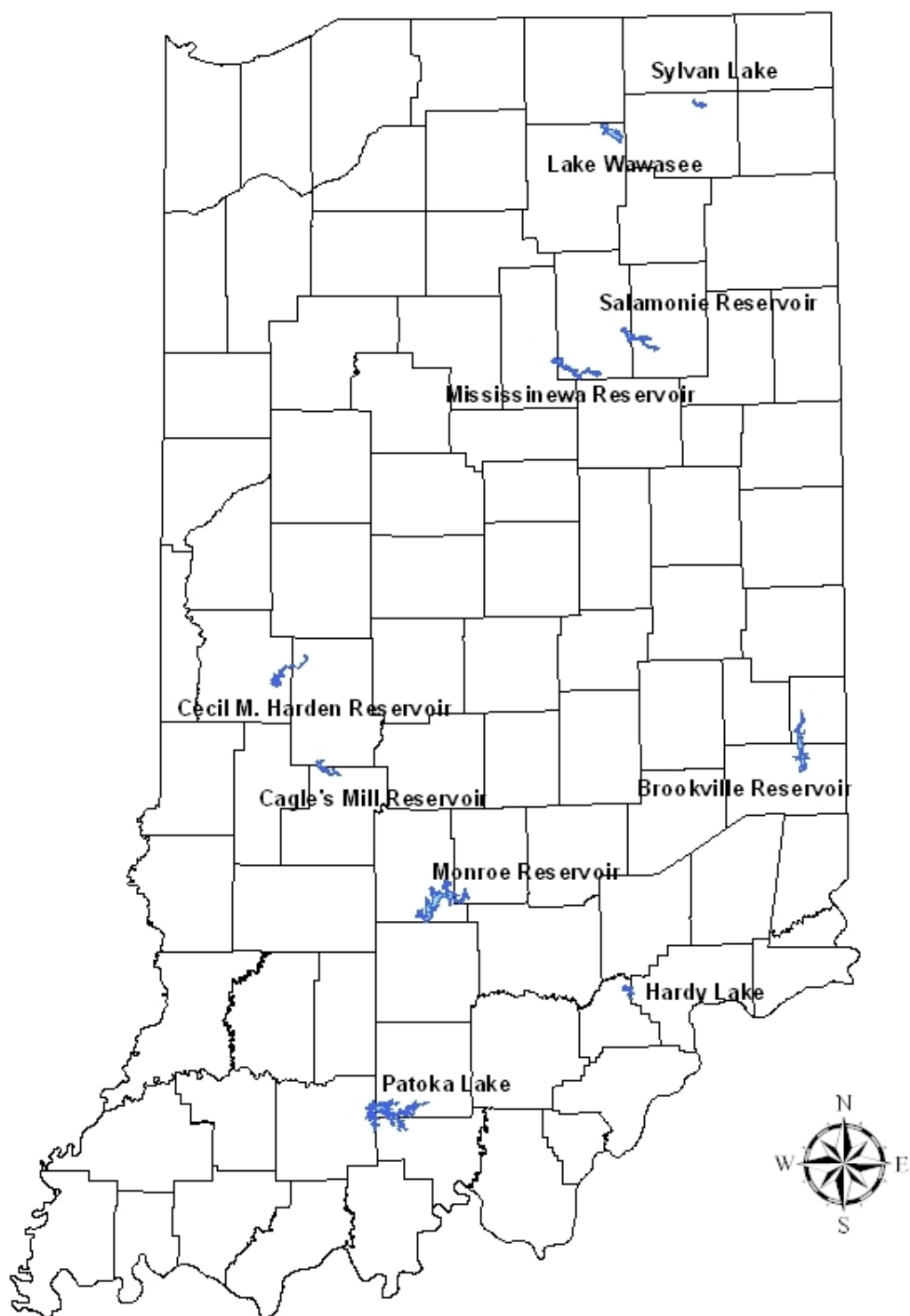


Figure 1. Map of lakes/reservoirs with registered black bass tournaments.

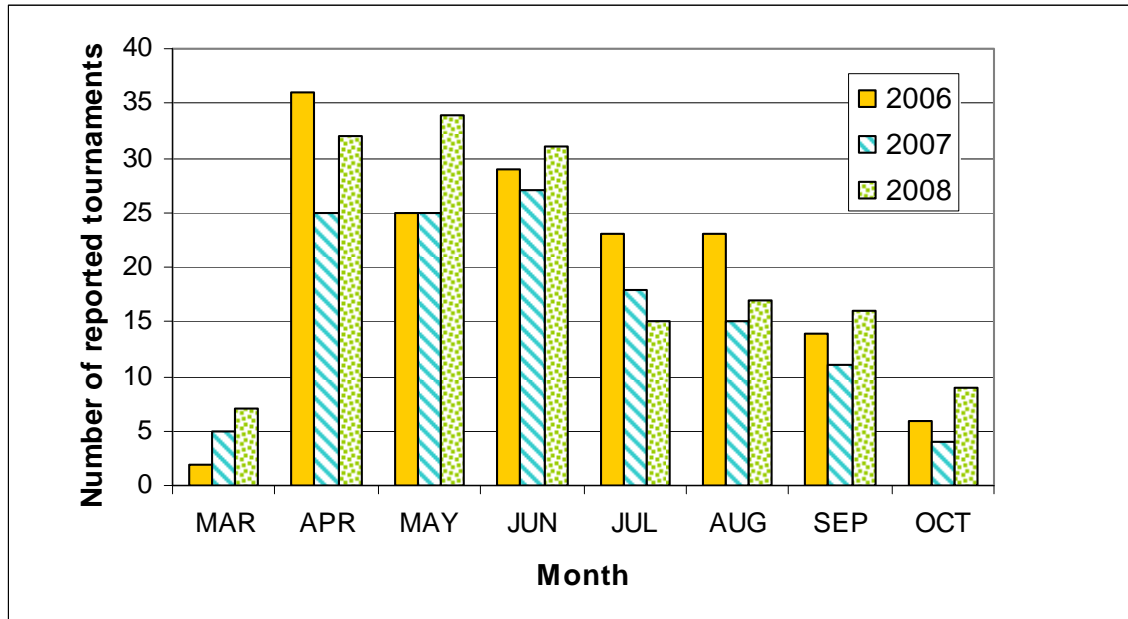


Figure 2. The overall number of reporting tournaments for all lakes by month from 2006 to 2008.

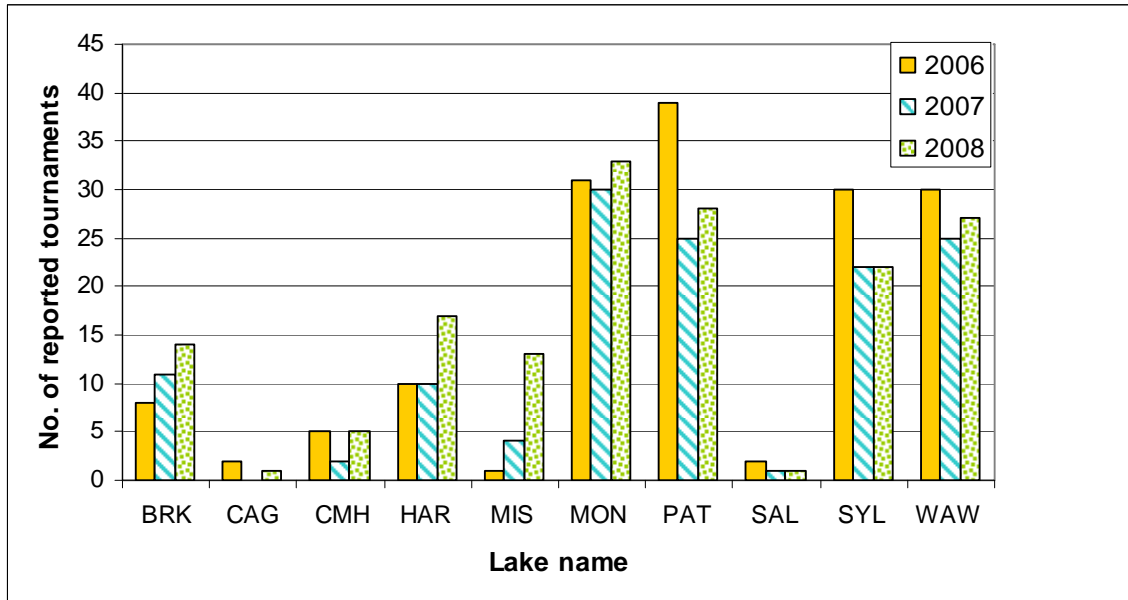


Figure 3. The number of reported tournaments from 2006 to 2008.

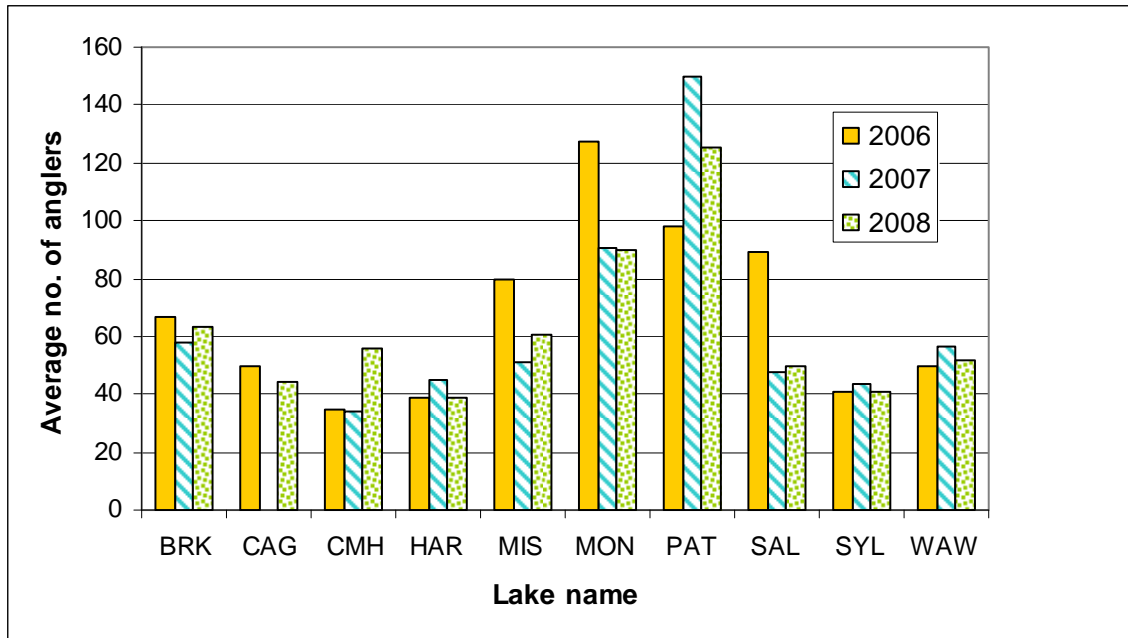


Figure 4. The average number of anglers in reported tournaments from 2006 to 2008.

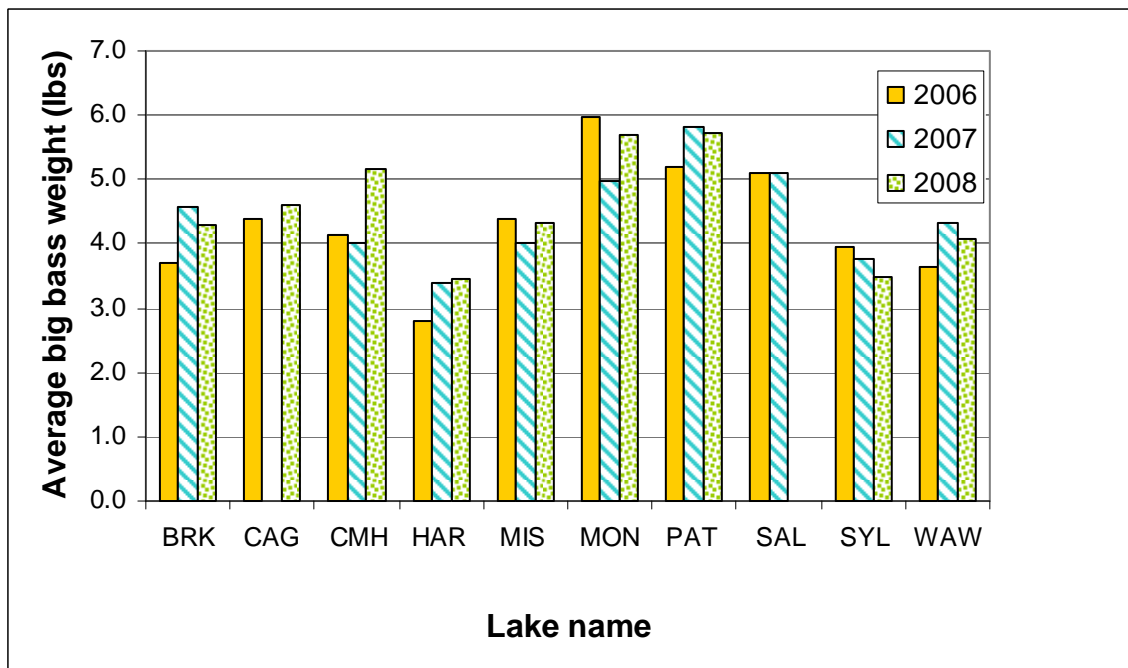


Figure 5. The average weight of the big bass (lbs) captured in all reported tournaments from 2006 to 2008.

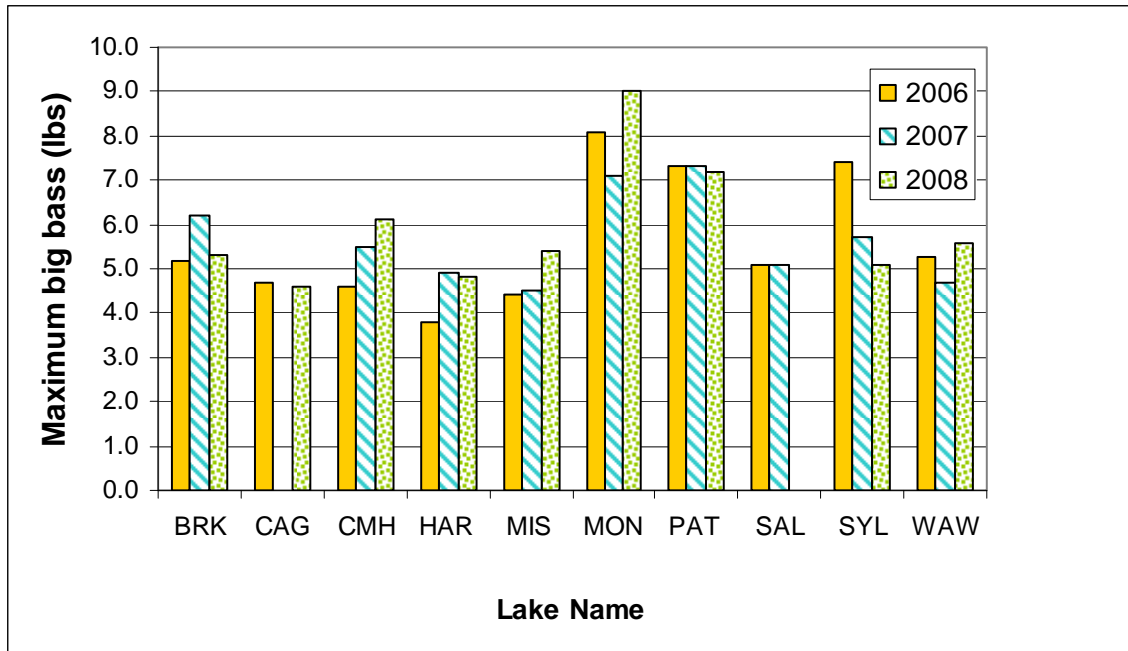


Figure 6. Maximum big bass weight for reported tournaments from 2006 to 2008.

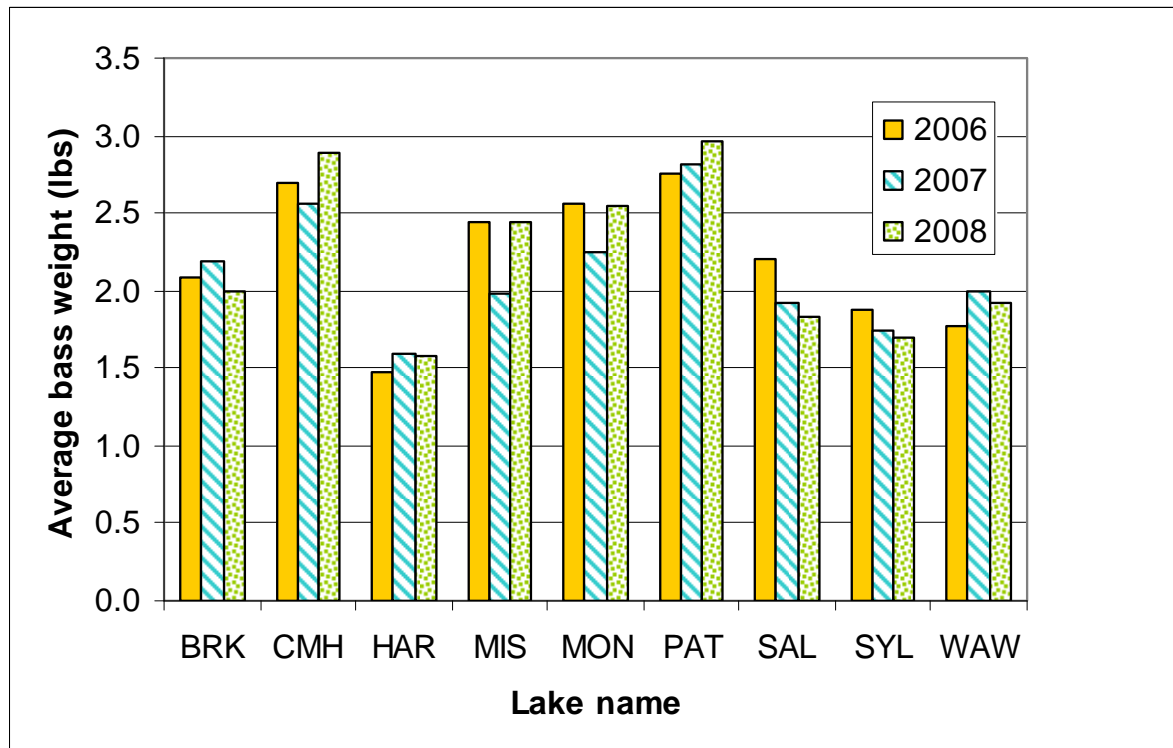


Figure 7. The average bass weight from reported tournaments from 2006 to 2008.



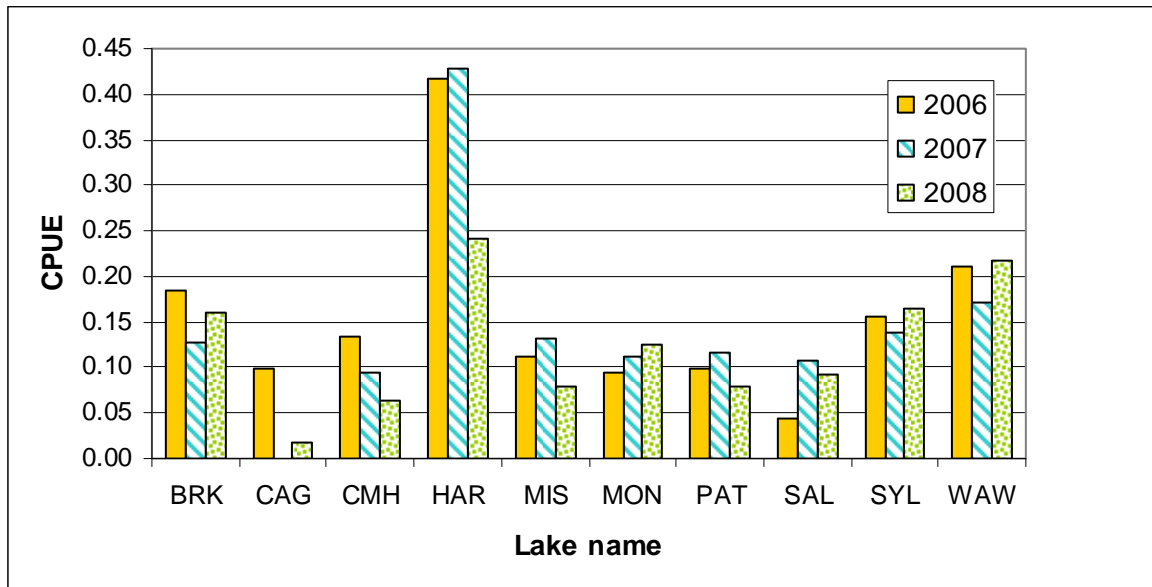


Figure 8. The catch per unit effort for legal bass from reported tournaments from 2006 to 2008.

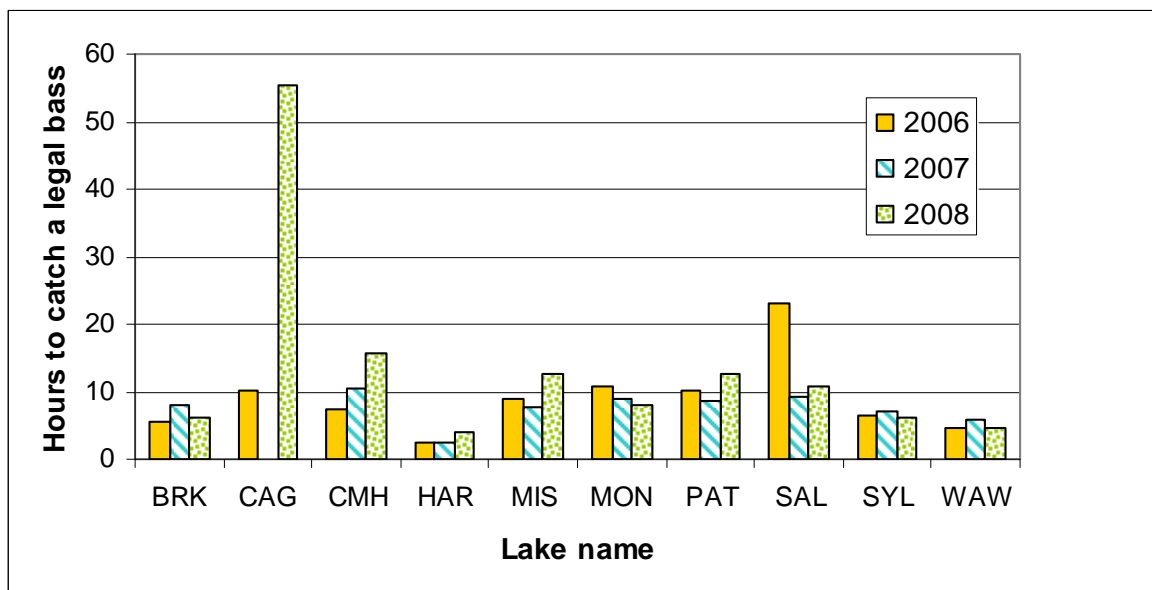


Figure 9: The number of hours to catch a legal bass from reported tournaments from 2006 to 2008.

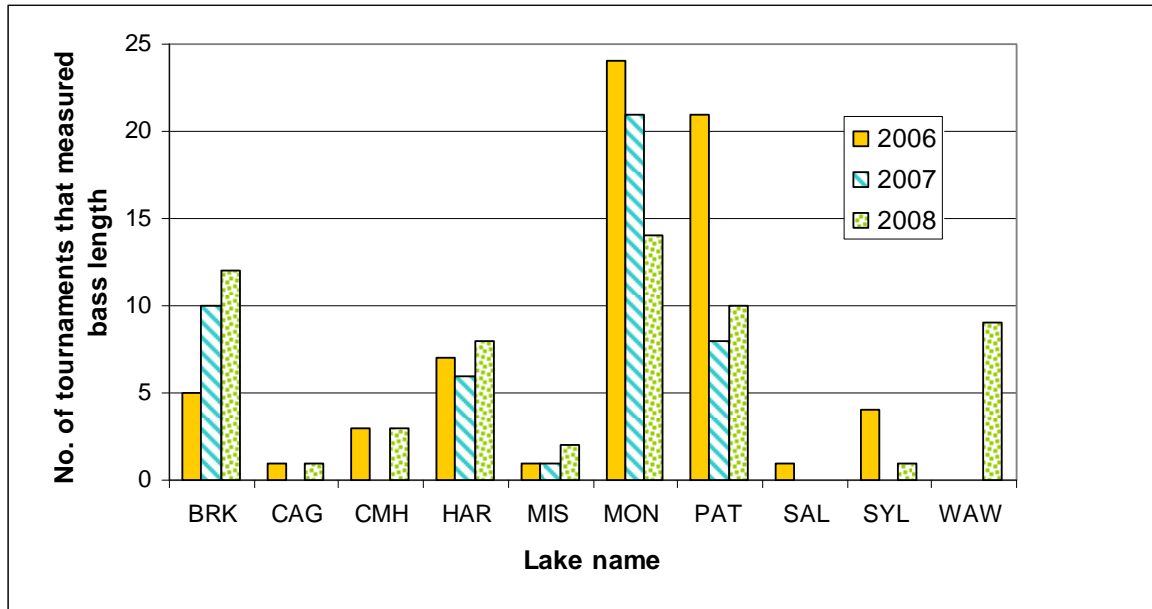


Figure 10. The number of reporting tournaments that measured bass from 2006 to 2008.

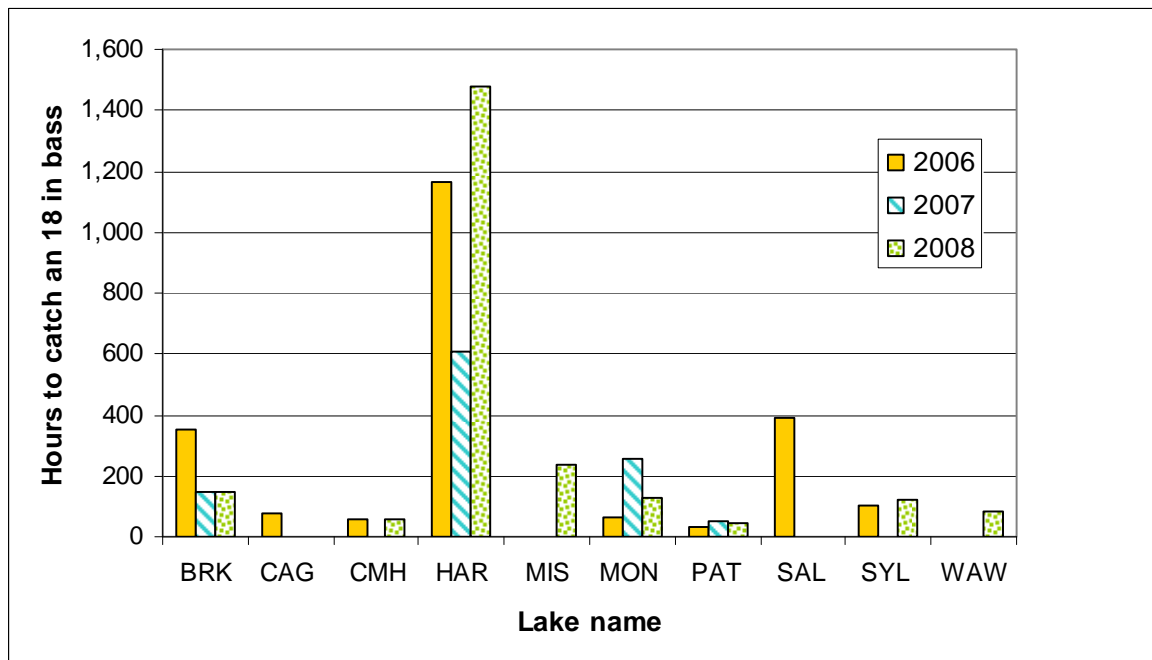


Figure 11. The number of hours to catch a bass 18.0 in or longer from 2006 to 2008.

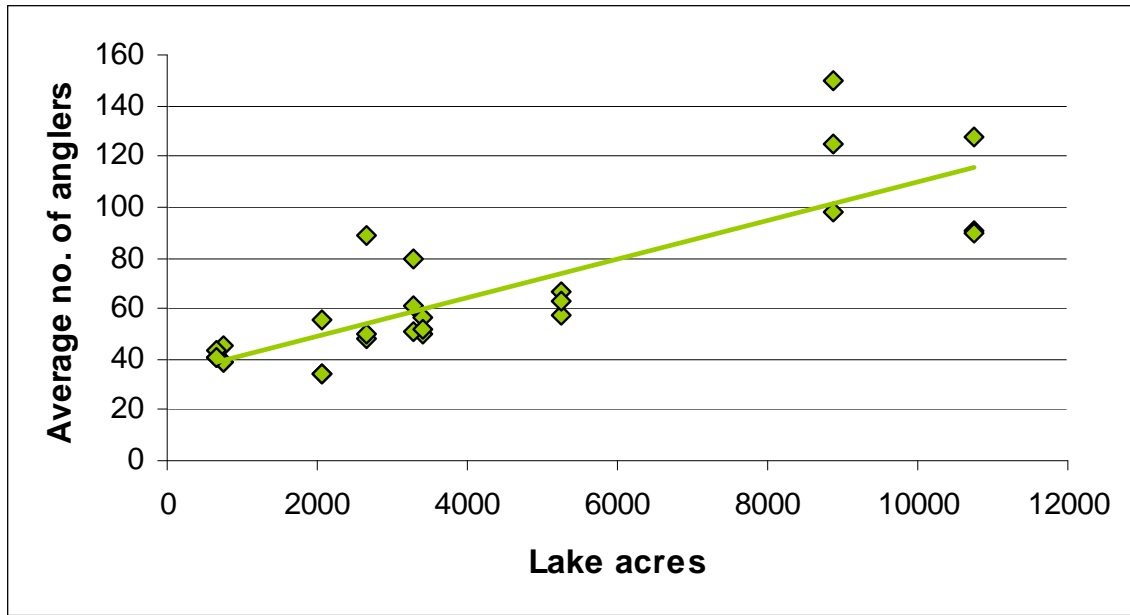


Figure 12. Linear regression relationship of lake acreage to average number of anglers per tournament from 2006 to 2008.

# **Appendix 1**

## **Tournament report forms**



**REPORTING FOR FISHING TOURNAMENT  
ON PUBLIC WATERS**

State Form 52361 (R / 5-06)  
Pursuant to 312 IAC 2-4

Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Reports must be mailed within 30 days of tournament completion.

Name of Applicant				Name of Organization				
Address								
City, State, ZIP Code								
Telephone Number (including area code)				Fax Number (including area code)				
Tournament Lake			Tournament Date		Start time	End Time	Species Sought	
Tournament Launch Location				Tournament Release Location				
Number of Boats Proposed			Number of Boats Present		Actual Number of Anglers		Type of event Team <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/>	
Team/Angler	Number	Weight	Team/Angler	Number	Weight	Team/Angler	Number	Weight
1			26			51		
2			27			52		
3			28			53		
4			29			54		
5			30			55		
6			31			56		
7			32			57		
8			33			58		
9			34			59		
10			35			60		
11			36			61		
12			37			62		
13			38			63		
14			39			64		
15			40			65		
16			41			66		
17			42			67		
18			43			68		
19			44			69		
20			45			70		
21			46			71		
22			47			72		
23			48			73		
24			49			74		
25			50			75		

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed activity report for fishing tournaments to: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 1353 South Governors Drive, Columbia City, IN 46725-7539

Team/Angler	Number	Weight	Team/Angler	Number	Weight	Team/Angler	Number	Weight
76			116			156		
77			117			157		
78			118			158		
79			119			159		
80			120			160		
81			121			161		
82			122			162		
83			123			163		
84			124			164		
85			125			165		
86			126			166		
87			127			167		
88			128			168		
89			129			169		
90			130			170		
91			131			171		
92			132			172		
93			133			173		
94			134			174		
95			135			175		
96			136			176		
97			137			177		
98			138			178		
99			139			179		
100			140			180		
101			141			181		
102			142			182		
103			143			183		
104			144			184		
105			145			185		
106			146			186		
107			147			187		
108			148			188		
109			149			189		
110			150			190		
111			151			191		
112			152			192		
113			153			193		
114			154			194		
115			155			195		

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed activity report for fishing tournaments to: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 1353 South Governors Drive, Columbia City, IN 46725-7539

# LENGTH FREQUENCY

Page \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Date		Name of Organization	
Number of Anglers		Number of Boats	
Start Time		End Time	

**Instructions:** Measure fish from tip of snout to tips of tail to the nearest 1/2 inch

14	
14.5	
15	
15.5	
16	
16.5	
17	
17.5	
18	
18.5	
19	
19.5	
20	
20.5	
21	
21.5	
22	
22.5	
23	
23.5	
24	
24.5	
25	

SPECIES SOUGHT:	
TOTAL WEIGHT:	
WINNING WEIGHT:	
BIG FISH WEIGHT:	
TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH WEIGHED IN:	

Please send form back to: Department of Natural Resources  
 Division of Fish and Wildlife / 1353 South Governors Drive / Columbia City, IN 46725-753  
 Phone: (260) 244-3720

## **Appendix 2**

### **Fishing tournament rule for public water (312 IAC 2-4)**

#### **Rule 4. Organized Activities and Tournaments on Designated Public Waters; Administration**

##### **312 IAC 2-4-1 Applicability**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 14

Sec. 1. (a) This rule applies to both of the following:

(1) The process for designating any public water where organized activities and tournaments are regulated.

(2) The administration of organized activities and tournaments on waters designated under subdivision (1).

(b) Exempted from this rule are each of the following:

(1) A boat race.

(2) A water ski event.

(3) A major organized boating activity.

(c) A person must not conduct or participate in a fishing tournament or other organized activity on a public water designated in this rule except under a license issued under this rule.

(d) The department's division of law enforcement shall administer this rule. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-1;*

*filed Aug 3, 2001, 10:54 a.m.: 24 IR 3930, eff Jan 1, 2002; readopted filed Oct 2, 2002, 9:10 a.m.: 26 IR 546; filed May 27, 2003,*

*12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3318, eff Oct 1, 2003; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA)*

##### **312 IAC 2-4-2 Definitions**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 14

Sec. 2. (a) The definitions in this section apply throughout this rule and are in addition to the definitions in 312 IAC 1.

(b) "Boat race" has the meaning set forth at 312 IAC 5-2-5.

(c) "Fishing tournament" means an activity involving fifteen (15) or more watercraft used for taking fish where:

(1) persons compete for a trophy, citation, cash, or prize; or

(2) a fee is charged to participants.

(d) "Major organized boating activity" means an activity other than a boat race, fishing tournament, or water ski event that:

(1) involves fifteen (15) or more watercraft as participants;

(2) involves fifty (50) or more watercraft as spectators;

(3) is conducted according to a prearranged schedule for a limited duration; or

(4) is reasonably expected to significantly disrupt boat traffic.



(e) "Water ski event" has the meaning set forth at 312 IAC 5-2-44. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-2; filed Aug 3, 2001, 10:54 a.m.: 24 IR 3930, eff Jan 1, 2002; readopted filed Oct 2, 2002, 9:10 a.m.: 26 IR 546; filed May 27, 2003, 12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3318, eff Oct 1, 2003; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA*)

**312 IAC 2-4-3 Petition to regulate the conduct of fishing tournaments or other organized activities on designated public waters**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 14-33-1-1

Sec. 3. (a) The following persons may petition the commission to designate, by rule, a particular public water for regulation:

(1) The county executive for the county where the public water is located. A petition under this subdivision applies only to the portion of the public water located in that county. The county executives for adjoining counties may enter a joint petition.

(2) If a portion of a public water is located within a municipality, the executive for the municipality. A petition under this subsection applies only to the portion of the public water located in the municipality.

(3) A deputy director of the department.

(b) A petition filed under subsection (a) must include the following:

(1) The name and location of the public water to be regulated.

(2) The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner.

(3) The periods when the public water would be regulated. These periods may be expressed in terms of months or beginning and ending days. Restrictions on activities regulated under this rule may be seasonally adjusted.

(4) Whether regulation would apply to fishing tournaments, other organized activities, or both fishing tournaments and other organized activities. If the regulation would apply to other organized activities, a description of the type of these activities that would be regulated.

(*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-3; filed Aug 3, 2001, 10:54 a.m.: 24 IR 3930, eff Jan 1, 2002; filed May 16, 2002, 12:25 p.m.: 25 IR 3046; readopted filed Oct 2, 2002, 9:10 a.m.: 26 IR 546; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA*)

**312 IAC 2-4-4 Notice of and response to petition**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 14

Sec. 4. (a) Upon receipt of a completed petition under section 3 of this rule, the division of hearings of the commission shall cause:

(1) a copy of the petition to be delivered for each deputy director of the department; and

(2) notice of the petition and a brief summary of its contents to be delivered to the legislative services agency for publication in the Indiana Register.

(b) Within ninety (90) days after the receipt of a petition under subsection (a), the department shall review and tender written recommendations to the commission regarding preliminary adoption of a rule to implement the petition. A copy of the recommendations shall also be served upon the petitioner and any other person who requests in writing that the department provide a copy.

(c) In preparing the recommendations described in subsection (b), the department shall consult with the petitioner and any other interested person. The recommendations shall consider each of the following:

(1) Fish, wildlife, or botanical resource management.

(2) The protection of users, including the following:

(A) Limitations of the public water to safely accommodate watercraft.

(B) Limitations of facilities relative to vehicular access, pedestrian safety, parking, and the launching of watercraft.

(3) The protection of private and public property.

(4) Cultural resources.

(d) For an application to establish a license requirement on a public freshwater lake, the department shall consider limiting the total number of boats in an activity conducted between April 1 and September 30, and licensed under this rule or under 312 IAC

5-3.

(e) The maximum number established under subsection (d) governs any date on which the activity or a portion of the activity is conducted.

(f) If the department does not tender its written recommendations to the commission in a timely fashion as provided in subsection (b), the petitioner may move the commission to place the petition on its agenda at the next regular meeting. (*Natural*

*Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-4; filed Aug 3, 2001, 10:54 a.m.: 24 IR 3930, eff Jan 1, 2002; readopted filed Oct 2, 2002, 9:10*

*a.m.: 26 IR 546; filed May 27, 2003, 12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3318, eff Oct 1, 2003; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA)*

### **312 IAC 2-4-5 Designation of regulated public water by rule**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 4-22; IC 14

Sec. 5. (a) The commission may approve the recommendations of the department under section 4(b) of this rule or may modify or reject those recommendations.

(b) If a petition results in preliminary adoption of a rule, the proposal shall be reviewed under IC 4-22. A public hearing on

the proposal shall be conducted in the county where the public water to be regulated is located.  
(c) The regulation of a fishing tournament or other organized activity becomes effective for a particular public water when a

section under this rule designating that public water becomes effective under IC 4-22. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC*

*2-4-5; filed Aug 3, 2001, 10:54 a.m.: 24 IR 3931, eff Jan 1, 2002; readopted filed Oct 2, 2002, 9:10 a.m.: 26 IR 546; readopted filed*

*Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA)*

### **312 IAC 2-4-6 License application**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-1; IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 14

Sec. 6. (a) An application for a license to conduct a fishing tournament or other organized activity must be completed on a department form at least sixty (60) days before the date of the proposed tournament.

(b) An applicant must be an individual who is:

(1) at least eighteen (18) years of age; and

(2) a resident of Indiana.

(c) The applicant shall attach a copy of the proposed standards and regulations governing the activity.

(d) The department shall condition any license to achieve at least one (1) of the following:

(1) Prevention of unusual conditions or hazards.

(2) Promotion of scientific fish, wildlife, or botanical resource management.

(3) Assistance in the protection of users.

(e) To accomplish the purposes described in subsection (d), the department may do any of the following:

(1) Designate the following:

(A) The starting time or ending time for an activity.

(B) The time and location for the use of any public facilities.

(2) Spread starting times among license holders if more than one (1) is approved for a particular waterway.

(3) Restrict portions of the waterway from use by the participants.

(f) The department may require a nonrefundable application fee with the application. The amount of the fee shall be established

by the director within a range of fees for this purpose approved by the commission. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-6;*

*filed Aug 3, 2001, 10:54 a.m.: 24 IR 3931, eff Jan 1, 2002; readopted filed Oct 2, 2002, 9:10 a.m.: 26 IR 546; filed May 27, 2003,*

*12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3319, eff Oct 1, 2003; filed Mar 18, 2005, 11:00 a.m.: 28 IR 2348, eff Oct 1, 2005; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:32 p.m.:*

*20070725-IR-312060333FRA; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA)*

### **312 IAC 2-4-7 Advance date approval**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-1; IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 14

Sec. 7. (a) The department shall conduct an organizational meeting or meetings between October 1 and November 15 to establish dates for the following year on which fishing tournaments or other organized activities can be conducted.

(b) In addition to the establishment of dates under subsection (a), the department may establish a date for a tournament beyond the following year if a person presents satisfactory evidence that a tournament would have national significance.

(c) A person who receives a reserved date must submit a completed license application within thirty (30) days of notification and at least sixty (60) days before the scheduled event, whichever is earlier. Failure to submit a timely completed application releases the reservation.

(d) A person is disqualified from participating in an organizational meeting unless any outstanding fee or cost established in section 12 of this rule has been paid. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-7; filed Aug 3, 2001, 10:54 a.m.: 24 IR 3931, eff Jan 1, 2002; readopted filed Oct 2, 2002, 9:10 a.m.: 26 IR 546; filed May 27, 2003, 12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3319, eff Oct 1, 2003; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:32 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060333FRA; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA*)

### **312 IAC 2-4-8 Bond; list of officials; user fee (Repealed)**

Sec. 8. (*Repealed by Natural Resources Commission; filed May 27, 2003, 12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3323, eff Oct 1, 2003*)

### **312 IAC 2-4-9 General duties of license holder**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-11-2-1

Affected: IC 14

Sec. 9. In addition to the terms of the license and the requirements otherwise set forth in this rule, a license holder must do the following:

(1) At least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled event, deliver a list of officials who will be present during the event.

(2) Obtain permission from the department to use a zone or zones in the public water for mooring, judging, weigh-in, starting, or for any other activities using public facilities.

(3) Upon the request of the department, meet with a designated authorized representative or representatives before a tournament or other organized activity begins.

(4) Remove equipment and refuse and otherwise restore zones used in connection with a fishing tournament or other organized activity to the condition that existed before the event as directed by the department.

(5) Provide officials needed to supervise participants and spectators.

(6) Require each participating watercraft to clearly display a logo, banner, or other visible item approved by the department

to identify the tournament or other organized activity.

(7) Establish a starting location for the tournament or other organized activity within an idle speed zone.

(8) Refrain from and prohibit the sale of food, beverages, or supplies within the area of the activity unless approved in writing by the department and the owner of the area.

(9) Refrain from obstructing ingress, egress, or regress from private property.

(10) Assure reasonable access to all persons to public use facilities, including swimming areas, mooring areas, navigational

channels, and similar facilities. Limitations on the usage of facilities must include the following:

(A) Except as provided in clause (B), vehicles and trailers of contestants must use no more than seventy-five percent

(75%) of the ramp and parking facilities in the staging area of the tournament.

(B) The owner of the staging area may, in writing, authorize more than the maximum allowed usage under clause (A).

This clause does not apply to a fishing tournament that is subject to section 12 of this rule.

(11) Sponsor no more than one (1) event licensed under this rule on the same waterway with starting dates separated by less

than fourteen (14) days. A tournament scheduled for two (2) consecutive days is considered a single event. The division of

law enforcement may authorize an individual to seek more than one (1) event on the same waterway, with starting dates

separated by less than fourteen (14) days, if in seeking the license, the individual is acting as the agent for different tournament

organizations.

(12) Act in good faith to fully perform the event. A person who demonstrates a pattern of violations of this subdivision may be denied another license.

*(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-9; filed Aug 3, 2001, 10:54 a.m.: 24 IR 3931, eff Jan 1, 2002; readopted filed Oct 2,*

*2002, 9:10 a.m.: 26 IR 546; filed May 27, 2003, 12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3319, eff Oct 1, 2003; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.:*

*20080813-IR-312080052RFA)*

### **312 IAC 2-4-9.5 Reporting**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 14

Sec. 9.5. (a) A license holder must report the results of the event on a form provided by the department within thirty (30) days

of the completion of the event, including the number of boats and participants, starting and ending times, and actual use of public facilities.

(b) In addition to the terms of the license and the requirements otherwise set forth in this rule, the department may require a

fishing tournament license holder to keep and report, on a department form, legible and accurate records of the following:

- (1) Tournament name.
  - (2) Name, address, and telephone number of the license holder.
  - (3) Tournament date or dates, including starting time and ending time.
  - (5) Name of any waterway fished.
  - (6) Number of boats and number of participants.
  - (7) Individual or team catch statistics for each species of fish taken, including the following:
    - (A) The numbers and lengths of fish weighed-in.
    - (B) The numbers and lengths of fish caught and released.
- (Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-9.5; filed May 16, 2002, 10:00 a.m.: 25 IR 3045; readopted filed Oct 2, 2002, 9:10 a.m.: 26 IR 546; filed May 27, 2003, 12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3320, eff Oct 1, 2003; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA)*

### **312 IAC 2-4-10 Limitation on usage of facilities (Repealed)**

Sec. 10. *(Repealed by Natural Resources Commission; filed May 27, 2003, 12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3323, eff Oct 1, 2003)*

### **312 IAC 2-4-11 Sanctions and emergency relief**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 4-21.5-3-8; IC 4-21.5-4; IC 14

Sec. 11. (a) The department may file a complaint under IC 4-21.5-3-8, or seek emergency relief under IC 4-21.5-4, to condition, suspend, or revoke the license of a person who violates a term of the license, this article, or another law. In addition, the department may seek an order in the complaint to disqualify the person from receiving another license under this rule, for a period not to exceed three (3) years, if the person:

(1) conducts an activity, for which a license is required under this rule, without having such a license in effect; or

(2) violates a term of a license issued under this rule.

(b) The department may file a complaint under IC 4-21.5-3-8, or seek emergency relief under IC 4-21.5-4, to condition,

suspend, or revoke a license if warranted by changed circumstances at the staging area or on the public water that might reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health, safety, or the environment.

(c) In addition to the penalties prescribed by subsections (a) and (b), a person who violates this rule commits a Class C

infraction. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-11; filed Aug 3, 2001, 10:54 a.m.: 24 IR 3932, eff Jan 1, 2002; readopted filed Oct 2, 2002, 9:10 a.m.: 26 IR 546; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA)*

### **312 IAC 2-4-12 Limitations on fishing tournaments at lakes administered by the division of state parks and reservoirs**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-1; IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 5-14-3; IC 14

Sec. 12. (a) This section governs fishing tournaments at lakes administered by the division of state parks and reservoirs.

(b) The number of boats that may participate in a fishing tournament must not, on any date, exceed the following:

Monroe Salamonie Mississinewa Huntington Brookville Hardy Patoka Lieber Raccoon

March 100 75 75 18 100 30 178 50 100

April 175 75 75 18 100 30 178 50 60

May 175 75 75 30 100 20 178 28 50

June 175 30 30 30 75 20 125 28 50

July 175 30 30 30 75 20 125 28 50

August 175 30 30 30 75 20 125 28 50

September 175 75 75 30 100 20 178 28 60

October 175 75 75 18 100 30 178 50 100

November 100 75 75 18 100 30 178 50 100

(c) A boat used to administer a tournament is excluded in determining the number of participating boats.

(d) The director may authorize a license for a fishing tournament under this section where the participants are not provided

advance notice of the location. The name of the lake may be omitted from the license application, but the department must be

provided with the name of the lake at least ten (10) days before the tournament. A license issued under this subsection does not

authorize a fishing tournament that conflicts with another license issued under this section.

Subject to IC 5-14-3, the department will

not publish the location of a fishing tournament issued under this subsection.

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (b), a fishing tournament on Monroe Lake, from October 15 through the end of February, is

restricted to a maximum of one hundred (100) participating boats.

(f) At least thirty (30) days before the scheduled event, a license holder must file a certificate of insurance or an insurance

binder with the department. The certificate of insurance or insurance binder shall name the license holder and the department as

insureds and shall demonstrate the license holder has obtained an irrevocable general liability insurance policy with a limitation for each of the following of not less than:

(1) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for all damages to property for a single occurrence.

(2) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for injury or death of one (1) person in a single occurrence.

(3) Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for injury to or death of multiple persons in a single occurrence.

(g) Attached to the application for each property, the applicant must deliver a cash bond or other security approved by the

department in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). Bond may be forfeited for any of the following reasons:

(1) Failure to:

(A) pay the user fee within the prescribed time frame; or  
(B) cancel the event within thirty (30) days from the date the application was submitted.  
(2) Restoration of the mooring judge's or spectators' area.  
(3) Reimburse to the department for cost of supervision, maintenance, and labor.  
(4) To collect any other unpaid fees or costs that are due, including expenses incurred in the collection of the unpaid fees.  
(h) Within fourteen (14) days after a tournament, the license holder must provide to the department a user fee equal to the greater of:

(1) eighty percent (80%) of the number of boats listed on the license; or  
(2) the number of boats participating in the tournament.

If the user fee under this subsection is greater than the amount of the bond, the organization is also responsible for the difference.

(i) The amount of the fee shall be established by the director within a range of fees for this purpose approved by the commission. The director may waive the user fee if the:

(1) tournament is held for charity where all of the profits are given to that charity; and  
(2) waiver request is:

(A) made in writing; and  
(B) submitted with the application.

(j) The director may require insurance in addition to what is set forth in subsection (f) if the director determines a fishing tournament poses an unusual risk of liability to the department.

(k) A license holder shall:

(1) indemnify;  
(2) defend;  
(3) exculpate; and  
(4) hold harmless;

the department and its officials, employees, and agents from liability due to loss, damage, injury, or other casualty to the person or property of anyone arising directly or indirectly from the activity.

(l) The department may deny or revoke a license under this section if any fee or cost provided under this section is delinquent.

If an applicant subsequently satisfies any delinquencies, the person is eligible to apply for a new license. (*Natural Resources*

*Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-12; filed Aug 3, 2001, 10:54 a.m.: 24 IR 3932, eff Jan 1, 2002; readopted filed Oct 2, 2002, 9:10 a.m.:*

*26 IR 546; filed May 27, 2003, 12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3320, eff Oct 1, 2003; filed Jan 5, 2005, 11:00 a.m.: 28 IR 1460; filed Jun 29, 2007,*

*2:32 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060333FRA; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA)*

### **312 IAC 2-4-13 Limitations on organized boating activities at Lake Wawasee and Syracuse Lake, Kosciusko County**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 14



Sec. 13. (a) This section governs organized boating activities on Lake Wawasee and Syracuse Lake in Kosciusko County.

(b) On the combined waters of Lake Wawasee and Syracuse Lake, the maximum number of watercraft that can lawfully

participate in a fishing tournament on a Saturday or a Sunday is as follows:

(1) One hundred twenty-five (125) for the following periods:

(A) from April 1 until the weekend including Memorial Day; and

(B) after the weekend including Labor Day until September 15.

(2) One hundred (100) from the weekend including Memorial Day through the weekend including Labor Day.

(c) For a tournament subject to subsection (b) that is scheduled to continue past midnight, the number of participating

watercraft may be attributed either to Saturday or to Sunday so as to facilitate the ability of an organized boating activity to use the

lake. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-13; filed May 27, 2003, 12:35 p.m.: 26 IR 3321, eff Oct 1, 2003; readopted filed*

*Jul 21, 2008, 12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA)*

### **312 IAC 2-4-14 Limitations on organized boating activities at Sylvan Lake, Noble County**

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-15-7-3

Affected: IC 14

Sec. 14. (a) This section governs organized boating activities on Sylvan Lake, Noble County.

(b) On the waters of Sylvan Lake, the maximum number of watercraft that can lawfully participate in a fishing tournament

is as follows:

(1) One (1) tournament each day, consisting of no more than sixty-five (65) watercraft, for the period of April 1 through April

30.

(2) One (1) tournament each day, consisting of no more than fifty (50) watercraft, for the period of May 1 through September

30.

(c) For a tournament subject to subsection (b) that is scheduled to continue past midnight, the number of participating

watercraft may be attributed to either day so as to facilitate the ability of an organized boating activity to use the lake. (*Natural*

*Resources Commission; 312 IAC 2-4-14; filed Mar 18, 2005, 11:00 a.m.: 28 IR 2348, eff Oct 1, 2005; readopted filed Jul 21, 2008,*

*12:16 p.m.: 20080813-IR-312080052RFA)*

### Appendix 3

#### Tournament data by lake by year

Summary of Bass Tournament Results by Lake for 2006									
Lake name	Number of reported tournaments	Avg. number of anglers	Avg. weight of big bass	Max. big bass weight	Avg. weight of all bass	CPUE	Hrs. to catch legal bass	No. of tournaments measured	Hrs. to catch 18 in bass
Brookville	8	67	3.7	5.2	2.09	0.19	5.4	5	354.67
Cagle's Mill	2	50	4.4	4.7	*	0.10	10.1	1	77.27
Cecil M. Harden	5	34	4.1	4.6	2.70	0.13	7.5	3	54.62
Hardy	10	39	2.8	3.8	1.48	0.42	2.4	7	1164.00
Mississinewa	1	80	4.4	4.4	2.44	0.11	9.0	1	*
Monroe	31	128	6.0	8.1	2.56	0.09	10.7	24	61.99
Patoka	39	98	5.2	7.3	2.76	0.10	10.1	21	35.03
Salamonie	2	89	5.1	5.1	2.21	0.04	23.0	1	392.00
Sylvan	30	41	3.9	7.4	1.88	0.16	6.4	4	100.44
Wawasee	30	50	3.6	5.3	1.77	0.21	4.8	0	*

Summary of Bass Tournament Results by Lake for 2007									
Lake name	Number of reported tournaments	Avg. number of anglers	Avg. weight of big bass	Max. big bass weight	Avg. weight of all bass	CPUE	Hrs. to catch legal bass	No. of tournaments measured	Hrs. to catch 18 in bass
Brookville	11	58	4.6	6.2	2.18	0.13	7.9	10	145.94
Cagle's Mill	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	0	*
Cecil M. Harden	2	34	4.0	5.5	2.56	0.09	10.6	0	*
Hardy	10	45	3.4	4.9	1.59	0.43	2.3	6	606.67
Mississinewa	4	51	4.0	4.5	1.98	0.13	7.6	1	*
Monroe	30	90	5.0	7.1	2.25	0.11	9.0	21	254.74
Patoka	25	150	5.8	7.3	2.82	0.12	8.6	8	49.29
Salamonie	1	48	5.1	5.1	1.92	0.11	9.4	0	*
Sylvan	22	43	3.7	5.7	1.75	0.14	7.2	0	*
Wawasee	25	56	4.3	4.7	2.00	0.17	5.9	0	*

Summary of Bass Tournament Results by Lake for 2008									
Lake name	Number of reported tournaments	Avg. number of anglers	Avg. weight of big bass	Max. big bass weight	Avg. weight of all bass	CPUE	Hrs. to catch legal bass	No. of tournaments measured	Hrs. to catch 18 in bass
Brookville	14	63	4.3	5.3	1.99	0.16	6.2	12	146.37
Cagle's Mill	1	44	4.6	4.6	*	0.02	55.2	1	*
Cecil M. Harden	5	56	5.2	6.1	2.89	0.06	15.7	3	60.35
Hardy	17	39	3.5	4.8	1.58	0.24	4.1	8	1476.00
Mississinewa	13	61	4.3	5.4	2.45	0.08	12.6	2	239.00
Monroe	33	90	5.7	9	2.54	0.12	8.0	14	125.00
Patoka	28	125	5.7	7.2	2.96	0.08	12.6	10	43.81
Salamonie	1	50	*		1.83	0.09	10.8	0	*
Sylvan	22	41	3.5	5.1	1.70	0.16	6.1	1	120.00
Wawasee	27	52	4.1	5.6	1.93	0.22	4.6	9	85.65

\* Not enough data present to calculate or for accurate results